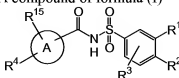


CLAIMS

1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (1)



or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and a five- or six-membered aromatic carbocyclic ring wherein from one to three carbon atoms are replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur, and wherein A is substituted through carbon atoms in the ring;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, haloalkyl, nitro, and -NR⁵R⁶;

R², and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkyl, alkylsulfanyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkoxy, aryloxy, aryloxyalkoxy, arylsulfanyl, arylsulfanylalkoxy, carbonyloxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkyloxy, halo, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)oxy, hydroxy, nitro, and -NR⁵R⁶;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkenyl, arylalkoxy, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, halo[*o*,*p*] heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkoxy;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylalkyl, alkyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkylsulfanylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, arylsulfanylalkyl, arylsulfonylalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, (heterocycle)sulfanylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, a nitrogen protecting group, and -N=CR⁷R⁸; or

R⁵ and R⁶, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a ring selected from the group consisting of imidazolyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolyl, thiomorpholinyl, and thiomorpholinyl dioxide; and

R⁷ and R⁸ are alkyl, or

R⁷ and R⁸, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form an aryl group; and

R¹⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and halo.

2 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 1 wherein A is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridinyl, and furyl.

3 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 2 wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, aryl, and heterocycle.

4 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 3 wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of arylsulfanylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxy, and cycloalkyloxy.

5 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 3 wherein R² is -NR⁵R⁶.

6 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 5 wherein one of R⁵ and R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkylsulfanylalkyl, arylsulfanylalkyl, arylsulfonylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, heterocycle, (heterocycle)alkyl, heterocyclesulfanylalkyl, and -N=CR⁷R⁸; and the other is hydrogen.

7 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 5 wherein one of R⁵ and R⁶ is (cycloalkyl)alkyl and the other is arylsulfanylalkyl.

8 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 5 wherein one of R⁵ and R⁶ is cycloalkyl and the other is hydrogen.

9 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 5 wherein one of R⁵ and R⁶ is (cycloalkyl)alkyl and the other is hydrogen.

10 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 5 wherein one of R⁵ and R⁶ is arylsulfanylalkyl and the other is hydrogen.

11 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of arylalkenyl, arylalkoxy, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, and (heterocycle)alkoxy.

12 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R⁴ is aryl.

13 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 12 wherein the aryl is unsubstituted or has one substituent.

14 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 12 wherein the aryl has two substituents.

15 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R⁴ is heterocycle.

16 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 15 wherein the heterocycle is unsubstituted or has one substituent.

17 (previously presented): A compound according to Claim 15 wherein the heterocycle has two or three substituents.

18 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

19 (cancelled)